

Love of the Land Leads to a Legacy Gift to Fund Future Conservation



Catherine Carter spent her life working to make the world a better place for those around her. She was an activist for many social and political needs, and a strong conservationist. In travels that took her across the globe, she looked to see how she could make the largest impact. Catherine kept that perspective when she finally settled in Skagit County.

“Catherine told me in 2017 that she had considered how her one acre property could make a large impact on the protection of natural lands here in the Skagit,” says Executive Director Molly Doran.

“She considered the big picture and the ecological future of the valley, while also loving the birds, voles and wildlife of her land in Edison,” says Doran. “She decided to do a Transfer of Deed on Death gift of her land to Skagit Land Trust so that we could sell it and put the proceeds into a bigger conservation project.”

Catherine visited the Trust’s office just days before she unexpectedly passed away to bring staff additional paperwork about her land. She wanted to ensure the process would be easy for all involved.

“Catherine didn’t have a lot of material possessions, but she supported the work of Skagit Land Trust and wanted to support it with the value of her land,” says friend Libby Mills. “She wanted it to be a vessel to the Trust to buy lands that were of higher conservation value than her land.”

“Catherine’s act of donating her land to the Trust typifies her essence of “giving back,” says Doran. “I would so love to sit down with her right now and discuss the projects her gift may impact, from Deception Pass, to the Samish Flats, to the Skagit River. She loved the Skagit area, fiercely. Her final generous gift of her land will not only help protect more land, but it has also brought so many of her communities and friends together.”

These friends include Linden Jordan with PFLAG Skagit. “Catherine left her personal property to PFLAG Skagit to be sold, with the proceeds benefiting PFLAG Skagit’s many services to the LGBTQ+ community,” says Jordan. “It’s been great to work with the Trust to promote the sale. Catherine connected so many people. It’s no surprise we’re holding the sale at the home of another Trust member and friend of Catherine’s.”

From supporting the Trust, PFLAG, and Skagit Audubon, to organizing unions and working for local political campaigns, Catherine took action to find the greater good that could be achieved. With her gift of land to the Trust, that work continues, fueling conservation that will benefit the next generation of people and wildlife. Skagit Land Trust is incredibly grateful to Catherine for her gift and vision.

If you are interested in leaving your land or home to Skagit Land Trust, either as a property we keep and manage as part our permanent conservation lands, or as a gift land whose sale proceeds help other conservation projects, please contact Executive Director Molly Doran at 360-428-7878 x202 or mollyd@skagitlandtrust.org.



Skagit Land Trust's Cedar Legacy Circle

Planting Seeds to Ensure the Future of a Natural Skagit

Have you thought about what you want the Skagit to look like 50 years from now? 100 years from now?



Skagit Land Trust's Cedar Legacy Circle members have thought about the future they want to see. They have taken action to ensure the natural lands that make Skagit so special will be here for future generations of wildlife and people to enjoy. **You can too.**

A planned gift to Skagit Land Trust makes a lasting impact on the work we are doing together to ensure the Skagit is home to clean water, healthy forests, spaces for wildlife to thrive, and places for future stewards of these lands to connect with nature.

You don't have to be wealthy to create a lasting legacy.

A bequest of any amount contributes to our ability to protect land and wildlife. There are many gift options available, such as listing the Trust as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, donor advised fund, insurance policy, or life income vehicle.

If you have questions about making such a gift, or gifting your land to benefit conservation, we would be happy to talk with you and provide more detailed information along with sample bequest language. Feel free to contact **Executive Director Molly Doran at 360-428-7878 x202 or mollyd@skagitlandtrust.org.**

Please let us know if you have already included a gift to Skagit Land Trust in your estate planning. **This way we can ensure your gift will be used exactly as you intend.** Plus, it would be our honor to thank you for the legacy you are leaving here in the Skagit.



What legacy do you want to leave to those who come next?



Exploring Skagit Land Trust Trails

Skagit Land Trust has protected more than 8,650 acres in Skagit County. Many of the properties feature trails for the public to enjoy. Here are some great places across the Skagit to explore alone or with your family. These properties are Trust owned Conservation Areas, or projects we have worked with partners to protect. Find directions to all of our properties online at www.skagitlandtrust.org. Dogs on leash welcome!



Cranberry Lake



The ACFL has 50 miles of trails to explore

Anacortes Community Forest Lands: The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) protect over 2,950 acres within the City of Anacortes on Fidalgo Island. The ACFL encompass a mosaic of forest, wetlands, lakes, and meadows. Since 1998, hundreds of donors to the Friends of the Forest and the City of Anacortes have made it possible to permanently protect 1,680 acres of this forest with conservation easements held by Skagit Land Trust. These acres are now protected from commercial development, tree cutting, and mining. There are over 50 miles of multiple use trails in the forest lands. Visit the property page on our website for a link to trail maps for the area. You can hike for an hour or all day. Check the Friends of the Forest calendar to join others on naturalist-led hikes, friendsoftheacfl.org.



Interpretive sign at Barr Creek



A family friendly walk to the waterfall



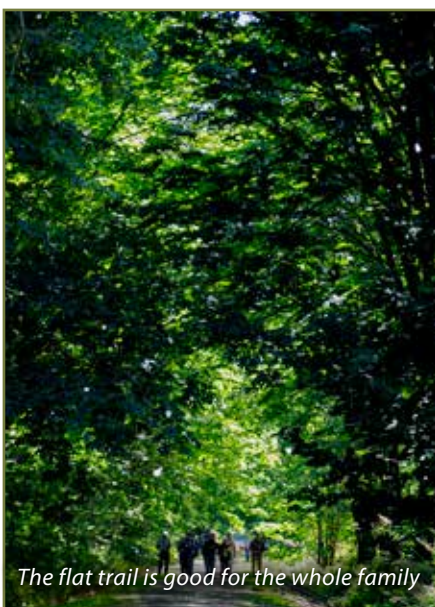
Winter on the trail

Barr Creek Hegg-Benson Trail: This is a short, magical trail through old forest. 1.5 miles east of the turnoff for Rockport on Hwy 20, turn onto Conrad Road. Look for the Barr Creek Conservation Area sign. The Hegg-Benson Trail wends its way a little over half a mile through the Conservation Area and connects to the Old Sauk Mountain Trail. Only adventurous hikers will explore beyond our property boundaries, but those who stay in the Conservation Area are just as rewarded. Barr Creek tumbles alongside the north end of the trail and a bench overlooking a waterfall awaits those who wish to pause and rest. This property was protected with birds in mind. As the forest matures it will provide potential habitat for roosting eagles, nesting marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls. In the meantime, look for evidence of red-breasted sapsucker and pileated woodpecker. Adjacent to thousands of acres of federal lands and wilderness, you never know what other wildlife you will encounter while walking this quiet trail! (Tip: winter is a splendid time for this hike as the falls are impressive.)

Cumberland Creek: This area has a well-developed system of flat trails open year round that access the Skagit River. A small parking lot with Trust signs is on the north side of South Skagit Highway just past mile 12. The Old Scout Camp Road Trail leads to the cobbled shores of the River (Tip: print out the map on our website). Look for gnawed branches. This is evidence of beaver in the area. Eagles perch in the trees hanging over the beach. The River Trail meanders past massive moss draped big-leaf maple. Listen for early springtime calls of ruffed grouse. From the beach look across the River to our Muddy Creek Conservation Area. Connectivity of Land Trust properties allows wildlife, such as elk, to move safely across the valley. At the old oxbow pond, elk have been spotted on the far shore as well as wood ducks floating on the calm water. The LEAF Trail has several overlooks of Cumberland Creek as it winds its way past an unusual line of western red-cedar. (Tip: In winter, wear boots for a few muddy spots.)



Cascade Trail – Multiuse Rail Trail: Grab your bike, dog, horse, or kids to check out the Cascade Trail, a 22.5 mile rail trail that connects Sedro-Wooley to Concrete. However you choose to explore this trail, you are sure to be rewarded with scenic views and a high chance of seeing wildlife including snow geese, tundra swans and the North Cascades elk. Along the way, look out for Skagit Land properties at Minkler Lake, Lyman Slough and Muddy Creek. Parking is available at three trailheads, Fruitdale Road and SR-20, Baker Lake Rd and SR-20, or Railroad Ave in Concrete. **For access by transit, take Skagit Transit Route #717.





Looking for evidence of wildlife on a Kulshan Creek Neighborhood field trip



The view of the Skagit from the high bank at Utopia



A kid-friendly trail, perfect for walking off energy

Utopia: About 7 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, ¼ mile east of the intersection of Utopia and Hoehn Rd, there is a gate with Skagit Land Trust signs. Park in front of the gate or on the road shoulder. Although there isn't currently a developed trail through this 88-acre property, one of our kind neighbors keeps a path mowed to the Skagit River which is .6 miles from the gate. Follow the trail across Wiseman Creek and through several areas of restoration plantings. Look for evidence of wildlife that make their home here - beaver, elk, coyote. Small areas of mature conifers attract owls and spring wetlands provide great habitat for amphibians to lay their eggs. This is an ideal property for four season hiking. Bring your mud boots and look for eagles along the river in winter. Berries are abundant in the summer. Watch for migrating geese in the fall.



Boardwalk through the woods



The trail meets up with the city park and lookout opportunities



Students from Conway School repair a bridge on the trail.



Ghost flower

Little Mountain-South: Most people access Mount Vernon's Little Mountain Park via the northern summit parking lot. However, a nearly secret trail to the top starts at Skagit Land Trust's Little Mountain Darvill Conservation Easement off Hickox Road on the southern side of Little Mountain. Although this is a private property, the landowner generously maintains a publicly accessible trail. Park in the two car parking area. Expect solitude until reaching the city park, just over ½ mile up the trail. Look for a variety of fungi and fungi associated plants at your feet and birds and other wildlife making use of the many snags left standing. (Tip: this is a great hike for kids as there are many things to explore)



View from the top



Cairns along the trail

John Tursi Trail - A Scenic Connector: Connecting Deception Pass State Park and the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, the Tursi Trail offers travelers views of meadows, lakes and several rocky balds. Along the way, hikers will pass an old miner's shack, red rock quarry, and Rodgers Bluff, once home to Northwest artist Morris Graves. This trail is accessible from Pass Lake parking lot in Deception Pass State Park, or from the parking lot on the corner of Donnell and Campbell Lake Rd.



Trail to the beach



Upper woodland trail



The Shoreline on Padilla Bay

Samish Island - A Birder's Paradise: The Samish Island Conservation Area protects 84 acres at the entrance to Samish Island. From Edison, take Bayview Edison Rd to Samish Island Rd and continue .2 miles past the island welcome sign. Park on the right (north) side of the road, on a grassy area that has room for 2 vehicles. Make sure you see a Trust sign to verify you're in the right spot. Thank you for not blocking the driveway. While

walking the forest trail, notice the large mature trees, some of which are over 130 years old. Cross over the road and explore 1,600 feet of shoreline along the second largest eel grass meadow in the western United States. Expert birder? Just a hatchling? With over 220 species of birds seen on Samish Island, this property is chirping with opportunities to practice your birding skills.



The view from the top of Guemes Mountain



Trail through the lower mountain woods



The trail at Dog Woods



Yellow Bluffs at Kelly's Point

Day Trip Itinerary to Guemes Island (Guemes Mountain & Valley, Dog Woods, Kelly's Point, and Peach Preserve): Looking for an adventure? Hop on the Guemes Island Ferry (by car or bike) and check out four great properties to explore. From the ferry, take South Shore Rd east to find the Guemes Mountain trail. Leashed dogs are welcome, and Islanders are thoughtful enough to provide leashes and walking sticks for those who may have forgotten them. Climb the 1.2-mile (550ft gain) trail to the summit for a great lunch spot with views of the Islands and Mt. Baker. The Trust also owns a large portion of Guemes Valley. Visitors are welcome to walk from the gate off of S Shore Rd down along the fence line to the east side of the wetland for wildlife watching (birding there is wonderful). The working farmlands are in use by a local farmer. The barn is not open for public access.

Next, take Edens Road to West Shore Drive and stop at Dog Woods to see the private conservation work of island residents. The trails feature views of mature cedars and rare birch. On the corner of West Shore Drive and South Shore Drive is Kelly's Point, where visitors can enjoy a long walk along the beach, looking for signs of marine life and taking in the immense Yellow Bluffs. Finally, visit the Peach Preserve just down from Kelly's Point on South Shore Drive. This property is conserved by the San Juan Preservation Trust. While you're waiting for the ferry back to the mainland, be sure to stop at the Guemes Island General Store to check out some Slow Loris designs and grab a cookie.

Opt Outside and Win a Prize!

Feeling full of turkey and pie? Looking to stretch your legs, or get the kids outside? Join Skagit Land Trust's Opt Outside Photo Challenge! This Thanksgiving season, avoid the stores and enjoy the outdoors with your family instead. Need inspiration to explore a new place? Check out our highlighted trails on pages 3-6. While out exploring Land Trust properties, snap a few pictures and send them in to be entered in a raffle to win a selection of prizes including Trust hoodies, t-shirts, and Natural Skagit books. To officially enter the raffle, send your pictures to americorps.engagement@skagitlandtrust.org, or tag us @skagitlandtrust on Instagram or Facebook. Happy exploring!



Value Nature by Doubling Your Gift on Giving Tuesday

Mark your calendars for November 30th

On Giving Tuesday (November 30th) the world unleashes the power of personal generosity to make a difference locally and globally. Your donation to Skagit Land Trust during Giving Tuesday will make a positive impact on the nature of Skagit.

And your gift will go twice as far!

Generous members have provided a \$10,000 match for all Giving Tuesday gifts.

To participate, go to our website on or before Giving Tuesday and make a donation.

Consider a gift at one of the levels listed below and see the impact your support could make!

\$25 - Installs and cares for a native plant or tree

\$50 - Supports a day of wildlife monitoring of great blue herons and amphibians

\$100 - Permanently removes 20 square feet of invasive blackberries

\$250 - Conserves a foot of floodway habitat for salmon

\$500 - Builds 60 feet of new trail

\$1,000 - Helps create and install bilingual informational signs at a property

\$2,500 - Permanently protects an acre of wetlands

A recurring gift - Gives us the funds on hand when the chance to save a property arises



Interested in making a gift of stock, from your IRA, or a Donor Advised Fund? Many members have found this to be a smart and tax-savvy way to support land conservation here in the Skagit. You can learn more about these giving options on our website, skagitlandtrust.org, or by emailing Laura Hartner, laurah@skagitlandtrust.org.

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Skagit Land Trust conserves wildlife habitat, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.

**Thank You for Giving a Hoot about
Skagit's Lands & Wildlife**



**Check Inside For Our Trail Guide Featuring
12 Properties to Visit This Season!**